

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 18-23 are pending in the application.

The Office rejected claims 1-10 and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Griffin, et al. 6,248,447. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In the rejection, the office indicated that Griffin, et al. '447 discloses a method comprising (among other steps), "providing a second substrate (20);".

In the specification of Griffin, et al. '447, the element (20) is described as a "...generally circular insert 20 comprising polycrystalline diamond..." Col. 6, lines 17-24.

The element (20) is one of two diamond elements (18, 20) bonded to a substrate 19, as shown in Griffin, et al. '447, Fig. 4.

Furthermore, the Office later refers to Griffin, et al. '447 as disclosing a third substrate (28). Numeral 28 in this patent refers to the drill bit and not a substrate. Col. 7, line 66.

The substrate in Griffin, et al. '447 is indicated in the specification by numeral 19. It is clear, therefore that Griffin, et al. '447 does not disclose the second substrate of the present invention as indicated by the Office. In contrast, the relationship of the diamond material and the substrates in the cutter of the present invention is described in paragraph 30 of the present specification as follows:

"The cutter 20 shown in Figure 5 comprises a first tungsten carbide substrate component 30 of generally cylindrical form, a second substrate component 32, also of tungsten carbide, and of part-annular form as shown in Figure 6, and a polycrystalline diamond table 34."

Because Griffin, et al. '447 does not disclose the second substrate as claimed in the present invention, applicant believes that claims 1-10 and 18-22 are not anticipated by Griffin, et al. '447. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Office withdraw the rejection of claims 1-10 and 18-22.

The Office rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Griffin, et al. '447.

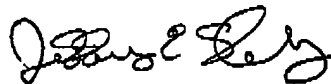
Since claim 10 now depends from allowable base claim 1, Applicant believes claim 10 is also now allowable.

As claims 1-10 and 18-22 are now allowable, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office allow claims 1-10 and 18-22.

In view of the remarks made herein, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

It is believed that there are no fees due at this time. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 180584. If there are any questions concerning the above, please contact the undersigned at 832-681-8623.

Respectfully submitted,



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